

ON THE GENERIC NAMES "PLOTIA" ROEDING, 1798,  
AND "PYRAMIDELLA" LAMARCK, 1799, AND THE PRO-  
POSED VALIDATION UNDER PLENARY POWERS OF THE  
GENERIC NAME "PYRAMIDELLA" LAMARCK, 1799  
(CLASS GASTROPODA, SUBCLASS PROSOBRANCHIA)

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(Enclosure to a letter dated 17th February 1952)

The generic name *Plotia* was introduced by Roeding in 1798 (*Museum Boltinianum* : 95) without a diagnosis but with a list of 15 specific trivial names. Of these 7 are *nomina nuda*, while the others have bibliographic references accompanying them. The first valid type selection for this genus was made by Pilsbry and Bequaert in 1923 (*Nautilus* 64 : 68), the species so chosen being the sixth valid species in Roeding's list, *Plotia lineata* Roeding (: 96). This species is an objective junior synonym of *Trochus dolabratus* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 760) the type species, by monotypy, of *Pyramidella* Lamarck, 1799 (*Mém. Soc. Hist. nat.* Paris, An VII : 76). A strict adherence to the rules would, therefore bring about the replacement of *Pyramidella* Lamarck, 1799, by *Plotia* Roeding, 1798.

2. *Pyramidella* has, however, been in common use since its introduction, and is the type genus of the family PYRAMIDELLIDAE, a very large family of world-wide range and of considerable importance in paleontology.

3. In order to prevent the confusion that would result from the loss of such a common generic and familiar name, we ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature :—

(1) to use its plenary power

(a) to suppress the generic name *Plotia* Roeding, 1798, for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy ;

(b) to validate the generic name *Pyramidella* Lamarck, 1799 ;

(2) to place *Pyramidella* Lamarck, 1799 (gender of generic name : feminine) (type species, by monotypy : *Trochus dolabratus* Linnaeus, 1758) on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :

(3) to place *Plotia* Roeding, 1798, as proposed, under (1)(a) above, to be suppressed under the plenary powers, on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology* :

(4) to place the trivial name *dolabratus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Trochus dolabratus*) (trivial name of type species of *Pyramidella* Lamarck, 1799) on the *Official List of Specific Trivial Names in Zoology* ;

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- (5) to place the trivial name *lineata* Roeding, 1798 (as published in the binominal combination *Plotia lineata*) (an objective junior synonym of the trivial name *dolobratus* Linnaeus, 1758 (as published in the binominal combination *Trochus dolobratus*)) on the *Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Trivial Names in Zoology*.

**PROPOSED USE OF THE PLENARY POWERS TO VALIDATE THE GENERIC NAME "DASYPELTIS" WAGLER, 1830, FOR THE AFRICAN EGG-EATING SNAKE (CLASS REPTILIA)**

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The present application is to ask the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature to use its plenary powers to set aside the name *Anodon* Smith, 1829 (Ophidia) and to place the name *Dasypeltis* Wagler, 1830, on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology*.

2. This action is taken for the following reason: Andrew Smith (1829, "Contributions to the Natural History of South Africa, &c.," *The Zoological Journal* 4 : 443) erected the genus *Anodon* using *Coluber scaber* Linnaeus, 1758 (*Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 223) as type species. Wagler (1830, *Natürliches System der Amphibien* : 178) independently erected the genus *Dasypeltis* using the same type species. Inasmuch as *Anodon* Smith, 1829, was preoccupied by *Anodon* Oken, 1815 (*Lehrbuch der Naturgeschichte* 3 (1) : 236) used for a mollusk, the name *Dasypeltis* has been used almost exclusively in subsequent literature.

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